

Steens Mountain Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 28 and March 1, 2002

**Members Present:**

Jerry Sutherland, Vice Chair, Environmental Representative–Statewide, Portland, Oregon  
Alice Elshoff, Environmental Representative – Local, Frenchglen, Oregon  
Hoyt Wilson, Grazing Permittee, Princeton, Oregon  
E. Ron Harding, Wild Horse Management, Burns, Oregon  
Tom Wendel, Dispersed Recreation, Burns, Oregon  
Steve Purchase, State Liaison, Salem, Oregon  
Stacy Davies, Grazing Permittee, Frenchglen, Oregon  
Cynthia Witzel, Recreational Permit Holder, Frenchglen, Oregon  
Tom Harris, Chair, Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation, Keno, Oregon  
Jason Miner, Fish and Recreational Fishing, Portland, Oregon  
Wanda Johnson, Burns Paiute Tribe, Burns, Oregon

**Members Absent:**

Harland Yriarte, Private Landowner, Eugene, Oregon

**Designated Federal Official (DFO):**

Miles Brown, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager, BLM, Hines, Oregon

**Designated Federal Official's Assistants:**

Rhonda Karges, Management Support Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Liz Appelman, Budget Analyst, BLM, Hines, Oregon

**Presenters:**

Joan Suther, Acting Steens Project Manager, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Jeff Rose, Fire Ecologist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Mary Emerick, ORP/Wilderness Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Skip Renschler, Realty Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Andy Wiessner, Western Lands Group, Inc., Denver, Colorado  
Mark Sherbourne, Supv. Natural Resource Specialist, BLM, Hines, Oregon  
Gary Foulkes, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM, Hines, Oregon

**Facilitator:**

Dale White, Burns, Oregon

**Commenting Public:**

Jack Rinn, Bend, Oregon  
Susie Hammond, Diamond, Oregon  
Alan Fujishin, Adrian High School

### **Others Present:**

Dave Harmon, BLM, Portland, Oregon  
Guy Sheeter  
Sandy Berain, BLM  
Tom Dyer, BLM  
Mike Golden  
Susie Hammond, Hammond Ranches  
Don Renie  
Phil Kessinger  
Brent Fenty, ONDA, Bend, Oregon  
Jim Wassom  
Rich DeLong, ERM, Reno, Nevada  
Opal Adams, ERM, Reno, Nevada  
Jennifer Thies, ERM, Reno, Nevada  
Josh Warburton  
C.M. Otley  
Lance Okeson, BLM  
Jim Buchanan, BLM  
Glen Patterson, BLM  
Darren Brumback, BLM  
Rudy Hefter, BLM  
Kelly Hazen, BLM

Mark Armstrong, BLM  
Cam Swisher, BLM  
Matt Obradovich, BLM  
Manny Berain, BLM  
Rick Hall, BLM  
Ray Hermit, BLM

### **Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping, Agenda Review:**

Meeting was called to order by the Chair and introductions made of all present.

Dale raised the issue of whether or not SMAC members wished their mailing address, phone numbers and/or email addresses be made available to those who request them.

Discussion: The members discussed how to ensure the general public has an opportunity to be heard, the concern over email viruses, and the ramifications of allowing all three types of information to be released.

Motion made, no discussion, no objection to consensus was made.

**Consensus Decision:** Only mailing addresses are to be made available, including on the web. (Cindy moved, Stacy seconded)

### **Chairman Update**

Tom reminded everyone of the meeting process rules.

Tom asked members to review the spreadsheets previously distributed and feed back any changes they deem necessary. Jerry offered to be the focal point for any changes and to coordinate those changes with Rhonda. It was decided the spreadsheet will remain

landscape, identify the individual from BLM who will be completing any particular task, be titled clearer, and remain an up-to-date list of those items being worked on; those completed will be moved to the top.

The SMAC decided to have Action Items and Issues updated at the end of each meeting.

### Action Items:

Funding through SYMMS: The funding for the SYMMS (an act named after an Idaho Senator) or RTF (Recreation Trail Fund) timeframe has passed for this year, but can still apply for monies next year. At Jason's request, Tom H. was going to look into the possibility of obtaining funding for a riparian project within the redband trout reserve.

Critique of Meetings: Council members believe their critique of each meeting provides a good means of feedback and wish to continue it.

Request for a map of road closures with a due date of March 1: Mark Sherbourne will review the map and make it available later in the meeting.

Definition of a Trail: Miles discussed the definition of a trail already existed. Some of the SMAC members felt it was not clear considering the various means of referencing trails, i.e., motorized ways, roads, trail, etc. Opportunity to designate trails will occur in the development of the land management plan.

### Announcements:

Miles reported the Roaring Springs - BLM land exchange was completed last Friday. He thanked everyone and particularly those on the SMAC who helped to complete it. Also, the BLM received judicial relief from the Wild and Scenic River lawsuit that may have prohibited BLM from accepting Roaring Springs' offer. People both inside and outside the group helped accomplish this. Miles expects Fred Otley's proposal to be received within the week.

### Overview of EA List:

As a followup on the discussion specific to Stonehouse AMP; Joan Suther spoke of how the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement process worked and when the two work together or separately. She also reviewed the list of projects proposed within the CMPA and their timeframes. Some are as a result of the legislative requirements, some due to NEPA requirements and yet others based on scheduled evaluations of grazing allotments. She was seeking the SMAC's wishes as to the depth of their involvement in the EA process. SMAC members discussed the timeframes involved in addressing upcoming issues, the myriad of issues facing the group, how to best use the SMAC's time, and how to address the concerns as they arise.

Motion made.

Discussion: Some EAs would have little to no SMAC involvement. Specific members might wish to be involved in some EAs on their own outside the SMAC, and yet other

EAs might involve the entire group in their SMAC roles. Any member can directly contact BLM staff to discuss the EA. BLM staff can contact SMAC members for their input on any EA. Jason pointed out the SMAC has a dictate to strive for consensus, while the BLM does not, so we need to be careful we do not enable constituents to play one against the other for the best deal.

No objection to consensus was made.

**Consensus Decision:** The agency goes forward with EAs as they see fit. The SMAC will become involved if the DFO or a Council member requests the Council get involved in specific issues, that would be the trigger point for SMAC to determine their involvement (Stacy moved, and Hoyt seconded).

#### Action Items Continued:

Stonehouse EA: Stacy's motion concerning the Stonehouse EA was tabled at the last meeting: "The SMAC recommend the EA process be separate from the EIS."

Discussion: Stacy believed the motion just passed takes care of the one from the previous meeting and wanted to withdraw his motion.

**Consensus Decision:** Allow the motion to be withdrawn.

Stacy received requests for the SMAC to be involved in the Stonehouse EA/AMP. He asked the Council receive a one-page briefing including the most contentious issues. Miles suggested the Council Members make a field trip to the area under discussion.

Followup Item: *Miles will prepare a briefing paper on the Stonehouse EA/AMP for the next meeting.*

A discussion was held on the need to continue moving forward and working on important issues, both as Council members and as interested individuals.

Juniper Management: Jeff Rose had just returned from a meeting where one of the topics of discussion was alternative fuels and how byproducts of hazardous fuels reduction projects could be used. Planning is difficult to get completed, and he would like to see this group provide input to help identify potential roadblocks ahead of time so they are known well in advance and can be dealt with. The discussion included the need to work closely between the private landowners and the Federal agencies to allow more of a watershed or subbasin approach to projects as well as multi-year planning.

Followup Item: *Jeff will provide a list of fuels management projects proposed through FY04.*

Jeff reported current work is being done to collect baseline data for the Juniper Management Area. The Council discussed the reasons for the establishment of this area as well as the best way to proceed, especially since the area is easily accessible to the public thereby providing a good on-the-ground education tool. Although the 3,000-acre

Management Area is not large enough to be a research plot, it will be very useful as a demonstration area. Jeff thought this could be done without NEPA, but Miles said an EA would be easy if the planning was in place. Discussion included the possible formation of a science committee to work on the Juniper Management Area; however, there is also a need for interpretation to inform the public of what is in progress.

Miles said BLM would put a group together to work on the WJMA. This would not be a subcommittee. Members expressing an interest in working on the group included Stacy, Tom Wendel, and Jason. This group would put together a list or proposal and bring it back to the SMAC.

*Followup Item: Jeff was asked to put together different treatment alternatives to demonstrate within the WJMA: no action, cut and leave, cut and remove, cut and burn, and selective cut and burn.*

### Public Comment:

Discussion: SMAC members reviewed the 5-minute rule with a concern of their questions to the person making comments might cut into the allotted 5 minutes. The Council wanted to maintain flexibility to allow public as much time as possible yet receive input from all that request time. If it becomes a problem, it will be addressed at that time.

Jack Rinn, Bend, previously sent a letter to all Council members and noted one correction on it. He believed pitfalls concerning access to private lands could be avoided if things are thought through in advance to prevent issues from becoming contentious.

Alan Fujishin, a high school student from Adrian, here working on research paper based on the Steens legislation, asked to meet with individuals to discuss their experiences and vision for the Mountain. He believes the more viewpoints the better the paper will be.

Susie Hammond, Hammond Ranches, said when the private property owners were expressing concerns to Greg Walden, it was apparent he believed the Steens legislation was an umbrella under which new and different things could be done, and not by the old rules that had not worked. She feels like we are trying to incorporate old ways of doing business and not coming up with new and different approaches. She also asked when Miles develops the one-page briefing paper, he identify to whom the private property belongs, which permittees and allotments are involved.

*Followup Item: Include in Miles' one-page briefing paper the private property owners, the permittees, and the allotments affected.*

Susie brought up it would be a good idea to consider the impacts of Bridge Creek and burn a large area to be sure people take into consideration occurrence of the impacts from deer and elk.

Discussion: The dinners are an important part of the group working through issues.

Appreciation was expressed for the landowners delaying their meeting to allow SMAC members to have the time to have dinner together. Anyone wishing to attend, including audience members, can sign up on the sheet sent around at each meeting.

### Signs and Education, Steens Brochure:

Cindy Witzel distributed an overview of what the subcommittee accomplished during a meeting in Frenchglen. Jill Benefield provided information books and relayed the signs she has to get done this year, mainly road condition advisory signs to meet liability requirements. The subcommittee discussed two large signs to go as panels next to entrance signs, to include a map of the area, road advisory and possibly a storm warning type sign. BLM may hire an employee to work on signage. The SMAC subcommittee will be attending a community sign meeting March 7.

Jill will let the subcommittee know if the community group is having a meeting so they can also attend and bring the information back to the SMAC.

Steens Brochure: Mary Emerick had been working on this prior to the formation of SMAC. It has been reviewed by several levels of the BLM organization, but she wanted to have the SMAC's input as to whether or not we should even go forward with it as it is, or if changes should be made, and what changes would be suggested. Mary was asked to put it up on the wall, and the Council will readdress it in the morning. The decision on whether or not to charge for this brochure has not yet been made.

### Recreation Monitoring, Special Recreation Permits & Public Use:

Recreation Monitoring: Cindy, Evelyn, Mary, Joan, and Mark got together last Friday to talk about recreation use monitoring and to figure out what is being done now, what should be done in the near future, potentially what the RMP could bring in terms of monitoring and how to find out the use within the CMPA. Currently monitoring consists of voluntary registration at certain trailheads, through campground hosts, and traffic counters.

Proposed Recreation Monitoring System: Joan expressed concern that implementing a mandatory self-permit system is a step with major implications, and one she is unwilling to take at this point. Miles pointed a mandated permit system would require a *Federal Register* notice. She would look to next year as possible implementation, but only after public outreach. Mary and Evelyn have agreed to develop a sampling method by April for the SMAC to review. Cindy expressed reluctance to not begin the mandatory self-permit system, and believed it is vitally important to determine what the use is of the Mountain in order to complete the recreation portion of the EIS. Jerry pointed out current numbers are needed to establish a baseline immediately after establishing the Steens Wilderness, and social encounters themselves are an important part of the wilderness experience in addition to the environmental impacts caused by recreational use. Stacy mentioned locals would see mandatory permits as a negative aspect of wilderness designation.

*Followup Item: Mary and Evelyn will create a sampling method by the end of April.*

Cindy agreed to continue working with the BLM to see what kind of more specific monitoring system could be put in place.

Motion made, no discussion, no objection to consensus was made.

**Consensus Decision:** BLM proceed with voluntary, self-issue registration gathering information for this season. The SMAC will reconsider mandatory registration next year based on how well that turns out. (Jerry Sutherland moved, Tom Harris seconded)

### Dingle Creek Land Exchange Update:

Andy Wiessner, partner of Tom Glass with Western Land Group, Inc., is helping local ranchers put together proposed legislation for a land exchange as well as to address some other issues. Andy gave a brief biography and explained his expertise and distributed a short briefing on the proposals. He hopes to have the draft legislation for the SMAC to review at the April meeting. At that point, if the SMAC can reach consensus on it, Mr. Wiessner will take it to the Congressional delegation. He explained the history behind this proposed land exchange, and what it might accomplish as well as the possible needs for non-development easements on private lands. He reviewed the various aspects of the proposal including the Stroemple property, the Blair property, and the Ed Davis proposal.

Other issues – Congressional cleanup issues: SMAC members discussed the items listed with Andy providing detailed information. They are listed in the order covered with numbering to match how they were laid out in the printed document.

Stacy proposed going through the numerical list of issues one by one. He asked that Andy be able to participate. No objection was made

### **1. Legislative language to grandfather Steens Mountain Running camp activities.**

Discussion: Cindy expressed the concern that by singling Harland's operation out for protection it could conceivably make the others more vulnerable. She believed if there is a gray area for Harland, there is for the others as well. Jerry felt there were alternatives that would allow Harland to continue his operation.

Tom Wendel moved we express support for including in this legislative proposal to grandfather the Steens running camp in and that grandfather be terminated at the death of that permittee. Hoyt seconded it then withdrew the second.

Hoyt moved the Council accept Number 1. Stacy seconded.

Discussion: Jason clarified the motion is, Andy is to draft language reflecting number 1 as part of a draft bill he will bring back in April for the Council to review.

Objection to consensus made by Jerry Sutherland.

Role Call Vote:

Tom Wendel – Yes  
Stacy Davies – Yes  
Jason Miner – Yes  
Wanda Johnson – Yes  
Jerry Sutherland – No

Hoyt Wilson – Yes  
Alice Elshoff - Yes  
Cindy Witzel - Yes  
Ron Harding - Yes  
Tom Harris - Yes

## **2. Adjust cattle-free boundary at Tabor Canyon, Scharff fence and (Other?)**

Stacy stated these issues concerned the Tabor Canyon adjustment, Scharff fence and East face boundary. If the boundary is adjusted slightly, it will save installing 10 miles of fence and any of the proposed adjustments entail only small acreage. Moving the boundary on the Sharff fence would allow them to graze the allotment, where with the current boundary they cannot.

Motion made, no discussion, no objection to consensus was heard.

**Consensus Decision:** Maps be prepared denoting the livestock free boundary and the proposed adjustments of Tabor Canyon, Scharf property , and the East face Wildhorse Canyon. (Stacy moved, Alice seconded)

## **6. Legislative language to grandfather any ditches/wells in Wilderness**

This is in reference to a spring and irrigation ditch. Discussion ensued on the various ramifications of the alternatives to deal with it. Jerry noted this use is not covered by Appendix A.

Ron moved, and Wanda seconded, the spring and irrigation ditch, used by Ed Davis, be cherry stemmed out of the wilderness/wilderness study area.

Discussion: None

Objection to consensus made by Jerry Sutherland.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Wendell – Yes  
Stacy Davies – Yes  
Jason Miner - Yes  
Wanda Johnson - Yes  
Jerry Sutherland – No

Hoyt Wilson - Yes  
Alice Elshoff - Yes  
Cindy Witzel – Yes  
Ron Harding - Yes  
Tom Harris yes



**Decision:** Andy will draft another paragraph that provides for grandfathering this use so the group can choose. (Jason moved, Hoyt seconded)

**3. Legislative language to grandfather private land access in pre-CMPA manner and degree.**

Discussion: This will be a big issue with the private property owners who believe promises by Oregon Congressionals were made and have not been fulfilled. The language set forth in Andy's preliminary Draft would not be considered adequate by the landowners, and he would need to change the manner and degree language.

Jason moved, and Hoyt seconded, Andy will draft language to address the private property access.

Discussion: None

Objection to consensus made by Jerry Sutherland.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Wendell – Yes  
Stacy Davies - Yes  
Jason Miner - Yes  
Wanda Johnson - Yes  
Jerry Sutherland – No

Hoyt Wilson - Yes  
Alice Elshoff - Yes  
Cindy Witzel – Yes  
Ron Harding - Yes  
Tom Harris Yes

**4. Legislative/Committee Report language repeating fire fighting authority in Wilderness.**

**5. Legislative language to re-emphasize grandfathering of Wilderness grazing activities in pre-Wilderness manner and degree (as per Congressional House Report, Appendix A, language);**

Discussion: Hoyt related his concerns over the fire situation peculiar to the East face, which causes fires to make runs both morning and evening and can burn the entire front-range. He stated without getting in there and fighting with mechanized equipment, there will be a large loss of winter feed for game animals. Part of the concern stems from the fact that although motorized vehicles are allowed in wilderness to fight fire, the level at which authorization is given is not local and takes time to obtain.

Stacy moved, Tom Wendel seconded, Andy will write language to address both Numbers 4 and 5.

Discussion: It was clarified it is National policy that the use of mechanized equipment be approved by the State Director. Jerry noted if the Burns District can make authorization

instead of the State Office, the protections afforded wilderness would be less than required for WSAs, which didn't seem appropriate.

Objection to consensus made by Jerry Sutherland.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Wendel – Yes  
Stacy Davies – Yes  
Jason Miner - Yes  
Wanda Johnson - Yes  
Jerry Sutherland - No

Hoyt Wilson - Yes  
Alice Elshoff - Yes  
Cindy Witzel - Yes  
Ron Harding – Yes  
Tom Harris - Yes

## **7. Prioritize funding for acquisition of non-development easements.**

Motion made.

Discussion: A great deal of lobbying has already been done to get monies appropriated. Steve Purchase also noted the State has 33,000 acres of mineral rights within the mineral withdrawal area that could be acquired through this means.

No objection to consensus was heard.

**Consensus Decision:** Include language that prioritizes funding for conservation easements, nondevelopment easements, cooperative agreements, and land acquisitions. Appropriation amount would be split 50 % for land acquisition and 50% for the other purposes. (Stacy moved and Ron seconded)

Jerry noted to the SMAC, voting on a legislative proposal probably should not have occurred as the SMAC can only make recommendations to the BLM.

### **RMP Planning Update Scoping Comments:**

Gary Foulkes said the scoping brochure was mailed and more are being printed. The scoping comment period actually ends April 15<sup>th</sup> rather than the date given in the brochure. The first scoping meeting was held in Burns with about 15 attending, and he is in the process of reviewing all comments received to date. The Summary of the AMS will not be ready for any of the meetings, but should be in a couple weeks.

**March1, 2002**

Meeting called to order.

Questions from Monday:

Clarification: Miles wanted to ensure all understood the discussion with Andy was information sharing. The BLM cannot be in negotiations for legislation. The discussion and the roll call votes are captured in the minutes, but no recommendation by the SMAC was made to BLM, and according to the notes all motions were to give guidance to Andy to bring draft information back to the SMAC.

Minutes: The Council reviewed the proposed changes to the minutes. Within this discussion was the Interim Management Policy and where it stands. It is not currently complete, but Miles will make the SMAC recommended changes and send it to all members for final review prior to the next meeting.

*Followup item: Miles to send the IMP to members for final review before the next meeting.*

Motion made, no discussion, no objection to consensus was made.

**Consensus Decision:** Approve the minutes with the identified changes. (Stacy moved, Jerry seconded).

Letter of Recommendation: The Council discussed whether or not they wished to issue a Letter of Recommendation to the BLM and what should be included in it.

Motion made.

Discussion: Some items are critical in timeframe and need to be done as soon after the meetings as possible. It was suggested during the meeting all recommendations to BLM are put in a separate document to be given to the members at the end of the second day for review and approval for inclusion in a letter.

No objection to consensus was heard.

**Consensus Decision:** All the recommendations to BLM pass whether consensus or not be listed and returned to the SMAC members before the end of the meeting for approval to then be placed in a letter from the chair to the DFO. (Jerry moved, Hoyt seconded)

Brochure: Members relayed comments concerning the brochure and will send them in writing to Mary for her consideration. These included: the theme, avoid promotion, amount of detail, the need to identify the type of audience, the map being excellent, how to meet public demand, suggestions to include artifact and petroglyph preservation, and to differentiate between public and private land.

Cindy pointed out if the purpose of the brochure is to get necessary information out to the public, the brochure should be handed out at no charge.

Motion made, no discussion, no objection to consensus was made.

**Consensus Decision:** Accept the brochure with the instruction the desert castle theme and logo will be changed to reflect existing terminology, and the Paiute concerns for artifact and petroglyph preservation is included. Map would reflect private property and special designation boundaries to the extent it doesn't overly clutter it. The rest of the changes Mary will accept or reject as she determines (Hoyt made, Cindy seconded).

### Review and Prioritize Issues:

Cultural Resources: This presentation will be postponed until the June meeting.

Prioritizing Issues: Members discussed the need to begin addressing some of the issues in order to keep up with the timeframes necessary to complete the RMP; the next two meetings being critical in accomplishing this. Stacy suggested at each meeting one day be dedicated to going as far as possible on one issue, such as the Transportation Plan.

Members listed their top three priorities from the List of Concerns & issues. This prioritized list will then be used to help set agendas.

Tom Wendel: Transportation, recreation, special designated areas  
Hoyt Wilson: Transportation, recreation, partnership programs  
Stacy Davies: Transportation, recreation, partnership programs  
Alice Elshoff: Recreation/transportation, cultural resources, wildlife  
Steve Purchase: Transportation, recreation, wildlife  
Jason Miner: Transportation; wildlife; special designated areas  
Cindy Witzel: Transportation, recreation, partnership programs  
Wanda Johnson: Transportation, cultural resources, wildlife  
Ron Harding: Projects, special designations, wildlife  
Jerry Sutherland: Special designation; recreation; transportation plan  
Tom Harris: Transportation, Recreation, partnership programs

The top three issues to be deliberated upon in priority order are: transportation, recreation, and wildlife.

Agenda for Next Meeting: Steve McCool, Dean Bolstad, and Transportation Plan

### Public Comment Period:

Don Renie, declined.

Susie Hammond, suggested putting the elevation level of rattlesnakes on the brochure.

Allen Fujishin, an Adrian High School Senior, is here working on a project research paper. He expressed his appreciation to the Burns District staff and the SMAC members for all their help

### Wassom Letter and LWCF Letter to Delegation:

Members reviewed the Wassom letter and the proposals and requests within it, the ramifications of each and the means of obtaining funding from the LWCF for this as well as other proposals.

Motion made, no discussion, no objection to consensus heard.

**Consensus Decision:** That Stacy write a letter on behalf of the SMAC requesting a \$5 million appropriation per the Steens Act and agreement. (Stacy moved, Jerry seconded).

Members discussed the various means of handling the partnership program, easement proposals, etc. Possible ways would be on a case-by-case basis, establishing guidelines in advance, impacts of timeframes, ramifications of delay, how to deal with boundary issues, and the need for a specific boundary when requesting LWCF money. Also discussed were the major issues concerning boundaries, what is within and outside the scope of the CMPA and SMAC; how to best utilize tax money; how to best manage the lands even if they cross boundaries.

Council members discussed the merits of the Wassom proposal, the ramifications of accepting it as well as not accepting it, and the ability to meet realistic time frames.

The Council agreed to ask Mr. Wassom if he was prepared to wait for the money. Mr. Wassom responded they were working on a timeline that was established prior to the CMPA, and he could not feasibly wait longer than 8 months because of time and money.

Motion made.

Stacy moved, Hoyt seconded, the SMAC recommend the BLM not accept the proposal.

Discussion: Jerry suggested wording it differently since he does not see a way for BLM to know if LWCF funding would be available in 90 days. Cindy wanted to clarify the issue isn't a high priority for the area; however, other Council members would have a problem with this statement.

Stacy withdrew his motion, to reword it to say: The SMAC recommends to BLM not to accept the proposal because it is not a high priority area.

Hoyt withdrew his second

Cindy seconded the reworded motion.

Discussion: The only reason for denying the proposal would be BLM's inability to meet the timelines.

Four objections to consensus were heard.

Roll Call Vote:

Tom Wendell: No  
Stacy Davies: Yes  
Jason Miner: No  
Wanda Johnson: No  
Jerry Sutherland: No

Hoyt Wilson: No  
Alice Elshoff: Yes  
Cindy Witzel: Yes  
Ron Harding: Yes  
Tom Harris: No

Jerry moved, Jason seconded the SMAC take no position on the Wassom letter.

Discussion: Ron felt a quandary in that a house on that location would be intrusive on the view shed, but also there is currently no money available to negotiate.

Jerry withdrew his motion, and Jason withdrew the second.

Council members were asked if there was any objection to moving on to the next item on the agenda. No objection was heard.

### DFO Update:

Miles reported Congressman Walden and BLM's Director have had a meeting and discussed the Steens, the District Budget, LWCF money, inholdings and grazing permit access, and the running camp.

A letter of resignation was received from Roger Alfred, Governor's Representative, no financial interest. The process to fill the terms that are coming up has been started with the preparation of a Federal Register Notice. Four positions - Dispersed recreation; local environmental; wild horse; and grazing permittee - are all coming open. Those who currently hold the positions may reapply.

Miles informed the Council, although the District is very short of monies, the projects to implement the no grazing area and forage replacement have been funded. Miles felt certain funding would continue to be an issue requiring work.

Wilderness Access Update: Mary Emerick is still awaiting information from some ranchers explaining their needs for mechanized equipment and motorized use within Wilderness per Appendix A, but hopes to have the draft for review by mid-March. Skip Renchler reported he is working on a Notice of Realty Action regarding inholder access permits, which should go in the mail next week. Concurrently, letters will be sent to the affected landowners explaining the situation and asking them to come in and talk over any concerns. Skip said out of 26 inholdings, only two of them need access permits from

BLM at this time. It was suggested when the letter is sent, BLM be extremely clear as to what information is needed.

Members discussed the contentiousness of the access issue. There is concern by the local landowners a three-year, 2920 permit could be revoked when it expires leaving them with no access to their private lands. Discussions prior to legislation assured landowners they would have access to their property, and permits were not discussed during these discussions. The group discussed alternate ways of allowing access through wilderness realizing the Wilderness Act and the Steens Act contain language allowing reasonable and historic access.

*Followup Item: Based on the cooperative language in the Act, Miles will look into alternative means to accomplish this, such as MOUs.*

Council agreed to have Dave Harmon, BLM's State Office Wilderness Specialist, address the group. He asked the group to keep in mind the process underway isn't designed to curtail or prohibit access, but rather to determine what level of use is needed. This would establish baseline data. Reasonable access and use must be provided yet minimize impacts to wilderness. He felt in a court case BLM could only defend themselves if it could be shown they were using the regulations.

Council agreed to allow Fred Otley to tell them of an alternative. Fred proposed consideration be given to separating out casual use from maintenance activities. Skip explained this would be a valid alternative if Wilderness were not involved.

Legislated Land Exchanges: Skip reported the Roaring Springs Land Exchange was completed last Friday and recorded on Monday. Also, BLM has received the Otley Brother's Exchange proposal.

Special Recreation Permit Update: Mark Sherbourne is awaiting information from three of the outfitters. Alternatives are being formalized for the Steens Running Camp EA.

Mark presented the map of road closures to the Council. This summer, the BLM will be attempting to inventory all the roads on the Mountain, with help from landowners, permittees, etc. He gave a brief historical overview of the timeframes of the road closures and the reasons for them

### Meeting Critique:

- Need to get information out to members ahead of meetings if a decision is expected of members. This is not as much of a concern if the purpose is only to provide information.
- Council bogs down too much in process.
- Didn't feel like any progress was made
- Need to look at working at collaborative solutions that are different than what has been done in the past.

- Look forward to the April meeting and working on hard issues
- Spending a lot of time on process, looking forward to getting into the details of the plan
- A great deal of emphasis was placed on innovative solutions to problems and pretty disappointed because it doesn't seem to be happening.
- Having dinner together was very productive
- Excellent group to work with
- Have laid groundwork for getting teeth into the content
- Perhaps invite the Congressional delegation to attend the meetings
- Send minutes to all Congressionals.
- Appreciate Dave Harmon from BLM's State Office being here.
- Perhaps cater dinner to give more time for the two meetings

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Liz Appelman

The SMAC approved the meeting minutes as amended on April 5, 2002.

Certified by:

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Tom Harris, Chair

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Date